

## OF SUMMER DRESS

The Things to Make at Home  
and the Things to Buy.

## CHOICE OF A TAILOR MADE

Plain Severity in Coat and Skirt  
Modish Now.

Suits of Serge and Linen—Pongee Fashionable, but the Cheap Varieties Not a Wise Investment—Attractions of the Cool, Simple Morning Frocks of Gingham and Chambrays in Yellows and Pinks—Soutache Braiding the Trimming—Linen and Cotton Frocks Which the Home Dressmaker Can Achieve—Embroideries and Other Decorations Dainty and Simple.

The home made summer frock should be a simple problem this season, although it is doubtful in this day of pretty ready made tub frocks whether it pays to wrestle with the difficulties and hazards of home sewing.

If a woman sews well herself and can



WHITE LAWN AND LACE.

make her own tub frocks or supply valuable assistance to a seamstress and if she has the time and strength for such work of course she can obtain dainty summer clothes at a cost lower than that of really good ready made things. Moreover, she can have just exactly the material and color she wants, can make sure of the quality of the materials and of the finish of the work.

She will not cut her seams so close that they are bound to pull out and leave them with raw edges. She will allow cleverly for shrinkage in washing and consider the



LINEN AND SOUTACHE.

exigencies of ironing. She will not spoil an otherwise charming frock by the coarseness of some bit of lace or the clumsiness of some effort at braiding.

On the other hand, many of the ready made models emanate from designers far more skilled and clever than any ordinary seamstress or amateur, and while they may be defective in detail and finish have much more smartness than the average home made frock and give a much more modish effect. Even in those matters of finish and detail the manufacturers are improving, and there has been an astonish-



FRENCH GINGHAM.

ing betterment in the ready to wear tub frock within the last two or three years.

The very cheap garments are naturally shoddily made, put together any way, so that they will sell. After that—well, the buyer must endure the deluge. But, if one is willing to pay a fair price for a frock so that the manufacturer may in turn pay fair prices for good work and give a little more time for the making one can buy wash frocks that are comparatively well finished and calculated to give good service as well as to have an air of modishness.

A simple little barred gingham frock dipped in the color of the bar line and with buttons covered in the same plain color has been a particularly successful model in one good shop and sells for \$10. It is well made too and the gingham is of fair quality. As for the lining, the sketch shown here will be reassuring on this point.

The frock is better cut than it would be likely to be if made at home, and altogether if one counts wear and tear and time as of any value a home-made



SIMPLE FROCKS OF LINEN WITH SOUTACHE AND OF FRENCH GINGHAM.

gingham frock is likely to be quite as expensive and less satisfactory than this ready made model.

It is when one comes to summer frocks more trimmed than the woman who can give her time to them often achieves better results than are presented by the ready made model. Lace insertion, even



BLUE BATISTE AND LACE.

if not put in by hand, will be inset more carefully, lace edgings will be put on by hand instead of being carelessly applied by machine, and all these little details mean much to the daintiness of a frock.

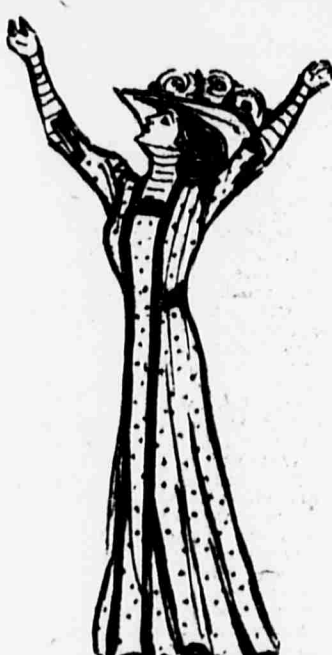
There is no lack of attractive and inexpensive materials for the home seamstress and she should have no trouble in finding suggestions for the making of frocks good looking yet inexpensive. A tour through the shops or a glance through any of the well informed fashion journals should give her all the inspiration she needs, and if she has good taste she should be able to plan a summer wardrobe for a very modest sum.

For her tailored frocks, unless she can go to a first class tailor, she had better resort to the ready made suits. Even the cheaper models, if they come from a good manufacturer, have a better cut and more style than the suit turned out by a second rate tailor. Occasionally of course, a lucky woman discovers a sartorial genius blushing unseen and gets good looking suits made by him at low prices until so many other women discover him that he ceases to remain unseen and altogether forgets how to blush, but experiment along this line is usually disastrous, and in buying a ready made suit one knows approximately what to expect.

The better shops charge more for alterations than they once did, but the alterations are made more carefully and skilfully and the improved results offset the increase in price. The most practical investment this spring so far as a cheap

street suit is concerned is one of the perfectly plain, severely tailored models in serge or cheviot. Bought at a shop where the models come from a good maker a suit of this kind will have good lines and much more distinction than a more pretentious model at the same price, but a host of women fail to grasp this fact and will take a suit spoiled by cheap trimming or by an attempt at affect which cannot be properly attained at a low cost instead of contenting themselves with smart severity.

Even in the high class made to order tailored suits this season there is a strong liking for this plain severity and a decided revulsion from the models button loaded, irregularly cut around the bottom, ornamented with bizarre pockets and braiding; and the women who look most chic in their coat and skirt trotting frocks wear plain suits of serge or cheviot, perfectly cut and tailored, long and com-



BLUE AND WHITE LAWN.

paratively straight of coat, short and plaited of skirt, without any spectacular features, but accompanied by the daintiest and most feminine of things in stock and jabot or fine embroidered blouse, whose embroidery echoes the color of the suit, or charming blouse of net, chiffon or other sheer stuff matching the suit material in color.

At the sales in first class houses we have seen serge suits of this same general type, though naturally not of such quality and finish as the custom made suits from a good tailor possesses, selling for from \$25 to \$35. They were excellent in cut and line and of fair quality and finish. Good suits of these lines have been sold in black and white shepherd plaid, and these are cool, clean and smart looking, but unluckily their merits have been so speedily and generally recognized that they have become distressingly common and they do not stand the popularity so well as the dark blue serge,

which is practically a summer uniform, yet retains its attractiveness.

In linen coats and skirt suits too the plain tailored models are the best, unless one wants an elaborate linen for dressy wear and is prepared to pay well for it. Linen suits loaded with cheap braiding or other trimmings are as the sands of the sea, particularly where the coat is associated with a one piece frock instead of a skirt; and thousands of these cheap overtrimmed suits have been sold, but if one wants a linen costume for ordinary wear, a soft heavy loose woven linen made on strictly tailored lines and absolutely without fanciful trimming is by long odds the wisest choice.

A first class linen coat and skirt of this kind is not very cheap because of the quality of the linen, and if a princess frock upturns the skirt the price is still higher; but even so the cost need not be extravagant, and even if one cannot afford the most desirable kind of linen the rule concerning tailored severity holds good. If a \$10 linen suit one must have, by all means let it be a plain \$10 suit.

Concerning the pongees in which all womankind seems to be investing and which supply the third example of useful tailored costume for summer, there is much to be debated. That pongee in a multitude of weaves is modish every one must admit.

That a cheap pongee is a wise investment we stoutly deny. Of all slazy, stringy things a cheap pongee is the slaziest and the stringiest, and the forlorn coats of cheap thin pongee which one sees on every side this season are a lamentable sight.

If one can afford a tailor frock of good heavy tussore, of mohair or any of the firm soft pongee weaves, there is nothing to be said against the purchase. It will be cool and light, and if well tailored will look well, but the very cheap grades of the silk are a delusion, and the well made suits of really good pongee bring rather high prices.

Extremely pretty suits of white serge and of white serge with a black stripe are offered at very moderate prices and will be found most useful if a woman is in a class to whom such a costume would be useful at all.

Mohair is a sturdy, comfortable, serviceable material for a summer tailored suit, but it cannot be classed among the modish materials, and a light weight fine will serge will look better than the mohair, while giving almost as good service.

When one leaves the province of the inexpensive tailored frocks which the summer girl may consider for her outfit and would better buy ready made, one comes to the cool, neat, simple morning frock, easily laundered, fresh after each laundering, inexpensive and warranted to wear well.

There the range of materials widens greatly and the opportunity of the home dressmaker looms large. A good gingham is one of the most practical materials on the list, but is not so smart as a one tone linen.

Plain chambrays come in delightful shades, wear well and are so cool and fine of texture that one wonders they

do not appear more frequently in the ready made models. Particularly lovely tones of yellow in the soft buff and brownish tones are found in this material as in the linens, and there are some excellent striped effects in the cool buff and white.

For the girl to whom they are becoming these yellow shades are most desirable this season, for they are beautiful in themselves, modish, cool looking and stand-laundering well. Relieved by white, the linens or the buff corn and yellowish biscuit colorings are delightful, and a touch of black sets off this color scheme admirably.

This is always a popular summer color, and this year it branches out into a long line of rose and berry tints which are fashionable if not so pretty as the dear, old fashioned pinks. Some of the pink chambrays and gingham are especially lovely and girlish, but in linens the choice runs more to the rose shades.

An attractive little model in rose linen—a dull, soft, silvery rose—which our artist has sketched had a gored skirt with box plait front and back. The skirt rose just a trifle high at the waist and buttoned in shallow tabs to a bodice of coarse rose net, on which narrow bands of the linen were stitched vertically at inch intervals.

Soutache braiding on the net finished Dutch neck and sleeves. The making of such a frock should be an easy matter save for the braiding, and so little of that is required that it would take but little time and labor. Some of the manufacturers in such cases buy white braided net bands and have them dyed, but often net and braid do not dye exactly the same shade and the slight contrast spoils the frock. If one cannot find net and braid to match the linen or other material which one wishes to make up with a braided net bodice the only thing to do is to have net and braid dyed separately and not accept them unless they are made exactly the same tone.

Sometimes of course the net foundation is unintentionally left a shade lighter than the braid which matches the skirt material. Or the net may be white or cream, while the braid matches the skirt color. We have seen the rose model of our sketch with a cream net foundation in the bodice and the effect was good, though the one tone idea is more strictly in accordance with fashion's laws.

This same model works out well in pongee and is rather less common than the pongee or linen skirt and net bodice embroidered all over in soutache, which have been taken up enthusiastically by the manufacturers of ready made models and so, though pretty, have lost all exclusiveness.

A good linen model brought over by the same dressmaker who shows the rose linen, has a bolero fastening in the back and falling easily just over the upper edge of a remounted skirt. This bolero is finished around the bottom by self-color soutache braiding and bell fringe and has short sleeves cut in one with the body of the little garment.

Heavy linen cords and linen covered buttons ornament the front and the shoulder and similar-cording is used for border-

ing the neck and the bands of soutache. A tucked gimp and sleeves are of sheerest tucked batiste.

Apropos of this bolero, some of the importers are showing elaborate little jackets of lace, lingerie and lace, embroidery, etc., much like the linen bolero in line and meant for wear over a simple lingerie or net frock by way of transforming it into ornateness.

Sheer cotton stuff trimmed with linen in the same color is worked into good loose frocks by the French makers, and some of their models offer good suggestions for the home dressmaker. One such frock in buff lawn and linen with plaited frills of sheer white and white pearl buttons was exceptionally likable and would work out well in any color. One sees, too, cool, pretty frocks of barred or striped sheer cotton in white and color with trimmings of plain linen matching the color.

Crochet buttons are used upon many of the wash frocks and blouses, and quantities of narrow Irish, Cluny and Valenciennes insertion enter into the designs of the sheer tub frocks. The crochet insertion without design other than the crochet mesh is immensely popular and is now imitated in cheap insertion and lavishly used.

Batiste and swiss embroidery insertions, edges and motifs with or without lace, introduced into the designs are extensively employed by the designers, and a touch of color enters into many of the simplest of these embroideries used for blouses, frocks and underwear. Silks, petticoats, matinees, combinations, etc., showing delicate colors in their fine sheer embroidery trimmings, are among the latest things in lingerie, and though a careless laundress can play havoc with them they certainly are dainty and charming at the start.

Cotton marquisette and cotton crepe must not be omitted in any discussion of simple summer frocks, nor must the lovely cotton voile, which is not always inexpensive, but is made in beautiful designs and colorings. The cotton crepe, plain or embroidered, now comes in a long line of colors too, and in some of the light tints is extremely attractive.

Cotton marquisette in stripe or small designs of color on a white ground is material for dainty frocks and blouses, and one of the simple frocks sketched here is of this sheer material in white and soft dull blue, with trimming bands of the plain blue marquisette. A very smart model on the same general order was in light khaki color and white, and one a trifle more ornate and trimmed with narrow Cluny was of rose and white stripes.

And then there are the dimities, the organdies, the innumerable silk and cotton mixtures and mercerized materials, the embroidered swisses—but the story must be finished at another time.

## SHE SHOPS FOR SERVANTS.

This Woman a Solver of Domestic Problems.

"While I do a pretty brisk business twelve months in the year, the spring and the autumn are my rush seasons. I am a servant shopping agent."

The speaker was a little woman in middle life who seven years ago came to New York practically penniless and to-day owns a comfortable home in The Bronx, with an account in more than one savings bank.

"By that I mean that I shop for servants exclusively," she went on. "My list of vacancies to be filled this season includes wages from \$18 to \$100 a month."

"One hundred dollars a month seems a lot for a servant? They are cheaps or fancy cooks of course, but each year the wages for domestic—I mean the ordinary household servant—increases. Last year I could get a very fair maid for \$18 and a plain cook for a small family for \$20. This year I haven't been able to place my hands on a cook who would consider less than \$22.50, and then with two exceptions they refused to do laundry work, even the house linen."

"The cooks I placed for \$20 last summer are demanding \$30 this, and what is more they are receiving it. They say they were plain cooks last summer, but in the meantime they have added to their kitchen accomplishments and now must receive more wages."

"This is in the majority of cases true, but think what a raise in twelve months. I don't know of any other field where a woman could get such an increase in the same time and for so little exertion; but a chef or a good fancy cook who has made any sort of reputation can command almost any price for the summer months."

"Butlers and head chambermaids are also much in demand. Up to three years ago an English butler who had been in the service of a titled family could get fabulous wages, and as for tips—why, he was too lordly both in appearance and the manner in which he conducted himself for an American millionaire ever

to think of offering him less than a \$5 bill. The demand for English servants has been decreasing for three seasons now, and mainly because so many of them fell short in the accomplishments they pretended to possess."

"Of course people can hire good servants through the hundred and one employment bureaus scattered about all our large cities if they have the time and experience. If people generally had those two commodities I'd have to hunt another field for my endeavors. Because so many people have neither or lack one I have been able to build up a good business right here in the stronghold of the employment agents."

"My methods are just about those of the shopping agent who buys dry goods and similar commodities. I get an order for a servant to fill such and such a place, and I go from bureau to bureau hunting for one that will fill the requirements. I am always on the alert for bargains, as I am anxious for my patrons to get all to be had for their money."

"If they are the source of my income I have their interest alone in view. I have never accepted a commission from an agency, nor yet from the person employed. My charges are according to the wages paid, but my fees are various and are given for special work."

"By that I mean that sometimes I am asked to secure a certain servant. If I succeed I am usually given something handsome. On several occasions the fee has been a check for \$100. If the servant remains the season and gives satisfaction, as he usually does, I very often get a second check. I should never think of asking for such a fee, but if employers think my services worth that much to them I see no reason why I should differ with them."

"I take orders from any respectable person the first time, but if they prove unsatisfactory employees I drop them from my list. They let me know and I am careful to observe them. If a servant proves inefficient or leaves before the appointed time and I can find no good reason for blacking him or her, I am forced to place him or her elsewhere."

"Two points that I am always particular about are honesty and soberness. I will not have anything to do with a servant about whom there is even a shadow of a doubt on either of these points. If they are not mentioned in the letters from former employers I always put the question direct."

"I have many customers for whom I employ a complete staff of servants every season. If there is any change or if they have any criticisms to make of my last selection they let me know and I am careful to observe them. If a servant proves inefficient or leaves before the appointed time and I can find no good reason for blacking him or her, I am forced to place him or her elsewhere."

"At the same time it would do away with my means of earning my living. Last year I made more than \$1,500."

Society to Keep Early Hours.

From the Lady's Pictorial.

In Paris hostesses are taking drastic measures to bring about the keeping of early hours, and though it is to be hoped we may not have to adopt the desperate methods to which some well known society leaders are resorting in France, yet it is devoutly to be wished that it would be made clear to guests during the London season that when a hostess asks them to come between certain hours the "closing time" mentioned should be strictly observed.

Students' Answers.

From the Philadelphian Record.

"When a student does not know the answer to an examination question he does one of three things," said a University of Pennsylvania student recently. "If he is a good student he will simply leave a blank space, while if he is not he will either try to bluff it through or else pass it off as a joke. These latter cases are rare, and the result is generally painful and does harm to the student who writes the paper. Occasionally, however, there will be a real gem which does the student good by putting the professor in a good humor and so making him unconsciously mark the paper less severely."

"I came across two such gems in one paper recently. One question was: 'Who was St. Bruno?' The other question was: 'What was the difference between the major prophets and the minor prophets?' Here he answered: 'It would not be right for me, student, to make individual comparisons between such holy men.'

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